Amendments to the Claims

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A decoding apparatus ~~for decoding a transport stream multiplexed with an image encoding data, time information and identification information, said image encoding data being prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding and by inter-frame prediction encoding, and said identification information indicates that continuity of time information is interrupted when continuity of said time information has been interrupted; characterized by~~ comprising:

a reproducing unit for reproducing a transport stream recorded on a recording medium in such a manner that an image encoding data prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding and by inter-frame prediction encoding, time information and identification information indicating that continuity of said time information is interrupted are multiplexed, said identification information being generated when continuity of said time information has been interrupted;

an image decoding unit for decoding said image decoding data contained in a reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit and for outputting said image data;

a storage unit for temporarily storing said image data;

a time information reading unit for reading said time information contained in said reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit;

an identification information reading unit for reading said identification information contained in said reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit;

a display timing signal generating unit for generating a display timing signal of said image data by using said time information read by said time information reading unit when said identification information reading unit does not read said identification information, and for neglecting said time information read by said time information reading unit and for generating a display timing signal of said image data by using a predetermined timing signal; and

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a reading control unit for controlling the reading of said image data stored in said storage unit according to a display timing signal generated by said display timing signal generating unit.

18. (Currently amended) A decoding method ~~for decoding a transport stream multiplexed with an image encoding data, time information and identification information, said image encoding data being prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding and by inter-frame prediction encoding, and said identification information indicates that continuity of time information is interrupted when continuity of said time information has been interrupted; characterized by:~~ comprising:

generating a reproduction signal by reproducing a transport stream recorded on a recording medium in such a manner that an image encoding data prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding and by inter-frame prediction encoding, time information and identification information indicating that continuity of said time information is interrupted are multiplexed, said identification information being generated when continuity of said time information has been interrupted;

decoding said image encoding data contained in said reproduction signal and outputting an image data;

temporarily storing said image data;

reading said time information contained in said reproduction signal;
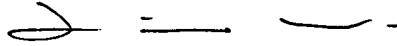reading said identification information contained in said reproduction signal;

generating a display timing of said image data by using said time information as read when said identification information has not been read, and neglected said time information as read and generating a display timing signal of said image data by using a predetermined timing signal when said identification information has been read; and

controlling the reading of said image data as stored according to the generated display timing signal.

19. (New) The decoding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said identification information reading unit is arranged to read said identification information multiplexed with a part of bits of a private data, constituting an optional field within an adaptation field which is within a transport packet making up said transport stream.

20. (New) The decoding method according to claim 18, wherein a process for reading said identification information is a process for reading said identification information multiplexed with a part of bits of a private data, constituting an optional field within an adaptation field which is within a transport packet making up said transport stream.

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Respectfully submitted,

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